

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

 providing bookmarks for a voice mail message by a caller leaving the voice mail message; and

 creating a bookmarked message from the voice mail message and the bookmarks,

 wherein at least two of the bookmarks are used to mark respective segments of the voice mail message as having degrees of importance, and wherein at least some of the bookmarks correspond to respective topics and some of the respective segments have different ones of the degrees of importance.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising playing the bookmarked message to a listener.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein a default degree of importance is associated with at least one of the respective segments.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the bookmarks corresponds to one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a callback telephone number for the caller.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a callback time and/or date to use when responding to the voice mail message.

10 (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a name of the caller.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is an e-mail address.

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a protection or confidentiality indicator.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising using at least one of the bookmarks to perform actions selectively on the respective segments of the voice mail message.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the selected respective segments are associated with one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the actions comprise one or more of saving, deleting, forwarding, listening, skipping, or repeating one or more of the selected respective segments.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the actions further comprise marking at least one of the selected respective segments as protected or confidential.
20. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 19, further comprising forwarding the segments marked as protected or confidential to another party.
21. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 17, wherein at least one of the special types of information comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and where at least one of the actions comprises automatically establishing a connection to the URL.
22. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein creating the bookmarked message further comprises storing the bookmarks and the voice mail message separately as the bookmarked message.
23. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein creating the bookmarked message further comprises storing the bookmarks and the voice mail message intermingled as the bookmarked message.
24. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 3, further comprising announcing, for the bookmarked message, a number of the bookmarked segments in the voice mail message.
25. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising announcing, when playing the voice mail message, the degrees of importance in the voice mail message.
26. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising announcing, when playing the voice mail message, a number of the respective segments and the degrees of importance.
27. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 7, further comprising announcing, when playing the voice mail message, the special types of information in the voice mail message.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein particular ones of the special types of information are required, and further comprising prompting the caller to provide input for each of the particular ones of the special types of information for which no bookmark is otherwise provided.

29. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim [[2]] 1, further comprising associating one or more audio cues with one or more of the bookmarks of the voice mail message.

30. (Previously amended) The method according to Claim 29, further comprising:

playing the bookmarked message to a listener; and

incorporating the one or more associated audio cues along with respective portions of the voice mail message corresponding to the bookmarks.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 30, wherein incorporating the one or more associated audio cues further comprises incorporating each associated audio cue with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 30, wherein incorporating the one or more associated audio cues further comprises incorporating each associated audio cue in-line with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

33. (Previously presented) A system for voice mail messages, comprising:

- means for leaving a voice mail message by a caller;
- means for providing bookmarks for the voice mail message by the caller; and
- means for creating a bookmarked message from the voice mail message and the bookmarks,

wherein at least two of the bookmarks are used to mark respective segments of the voice mail message as having degrees of importance, and wherein at least some of the bookmarks correspond to respective topics and some of the respective segments have different ones of the degrees of importance.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 33, further comprising means for playing the bookmarked message to a listener.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 33, wherein at least one of the bookmarks corresponds to one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

38. (Original) The system according to Claim 37, wherein the special types of information comprise one or more of: (1) a callback telephone number for the caller; (2) a callback time at which to respond to the voice mail message; and/or (3) a callback date on which to respond to the voice mail message.

39. (Original) The system according to Claim 37, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

40. (Original) The system according to Claim 37, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a protection or confidentiality indicator.

41. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 33, further comprising means for using at least one of the bookmarks to perform actions selectively on the respective segments of the voice mail message.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the actions comprise one or more of saving, deleting, forwarding, listening, skipping, or repeating one or more of the selected respective segments.

45. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 44, wherein the actions further comprise marking at least one of the selected respective segments as protected or confidential.

46. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 45, further comprising forwarding the marked segments to another party.

47. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the selected respective segments are associated with one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

48. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 47, wherein at least one of the special types of information comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and where at least one of the actions comprises automatically establishing a connection to the URL.

49. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 35, further comprising means for announcing, for the bookmarked message, a number of the bookmarked segments in the voice mail message.

50. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 33, further comprising means for announcing, before playing the voice mail message, the degrees of importance in the voice mail message.

51. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 37, further comprising means for announcing, after playing the voice mail message, the special types of information in the voice mail message.

52. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 37, wherein particular ones of the special types of information are required, and further comprising means for prompting the caller to provide input for each of the particular ones of the special types of information for which no bookmark is otherwise provided.

53. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim [[34]] 33, further comprising means for associating one or more audio cues with one or more of the bookmarks of the voice mail message.

54. (Previously presented) The system according to Claim 53, further comprising:

means for playing the bookmarked message to a listener; and

means for incorporating the one or more associated audio cues along with respective portions of the voice mail message corresponding to the bookmarks.

55. (Original) The system according to Claim 54, wherein the means for incorporating the one or more associated audio cues further comprises means for incorporating each associated audio cue with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

56. (Original) The system according to Claim 54, wherein the means for incorporating the one or more associated audio cues further comprises means for incorporating each associated audio cue in-line with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

57. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium comprising computer program instructions, the computer program instructions comprising:

computer-readable program code configured to create bookmarks for a voice mail message by a caller leaving the voice mail message;

wherein at least two of the bookmarks are used to mark respective segments of the voice mail message as having degrees of importance, and wherein at least some of the bookmarks correspond to respective topics and some of the respective segments have different ones of the degrees of importance, wherein the computer-readable medium is a computer-readable storage medium.

58. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 57, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to play the bookmarked message to a listener.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 57, wherein a default degree of importance is associated with at least one of the respective segments.

62. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 57, wherein at least one of the bookmarks corresponds to one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

63. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein the special types of information comprise one or more of: (1) a callback telephone number for the caller; (2) a callback time at which to respond to the voice mail message; and/or (3) a callback date on which to respond to the voice mail message.

64. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a name of the caller.

65. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein at least one of the special types of information is an e-mail address.

66. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein at least one of the special types of information is a protection or confidentiality indicator.

67. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to Claim [[59]] 57, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to use the bookmarks to navigate from one topic of the voice mail message to another.

68. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 58, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to use at least one of the bookmarks to perform actions selectively on the respective segments of the voice mail message.

69. (Canceled)

70. (Canceled)

71. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 68, wherein the actions comprise one or more of: saving; deleting; skipping; forwarding; listening; repeating; and marking one or more of the selected respective segments.

72. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 68, wherein the selected respective segments are associated with one or more special types of information in the voice mail message.

73. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 72, wherein at least one of the special types of information comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and where at least one of the actions comprises automatically establishing a connection to the URL.

74. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 58, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, for the bookmarked message, a number of the bookmarked segments in the voice mail message.

75. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 57, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, when playing the voice mail message, a number of the respective segments and the degrees of importance.

76. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, after playing the voice mail message, a number of the special types of information in the voice mail message.

77. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein particular ones of the special types of information are required, and further comprising computer-readable program code configured to prompt the caller to provide input for each of the particular ones of the special types of information for which no bookmark is otherwise provided.

78. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 58, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to associate one or more audio cues with one or more of the bookmarks of the voice mail message.

79. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 78, further comprising:

computer-readable program code configured to play the bookmarked message to a listener; and

computer-readable program code configured to incorporate the one or more associated audio cues along with respective portions of the voice mail message corresponding to the bookmarks.

80. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 79, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to incorporate the one or more associated audio cues further comprises computer-readable program code configured to incorporate each associated audio cue with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

81. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 79, wherein the computer-readable program code configured to incorporate the one or more associated audio cues further comprises computer-readable program code configured to incorporate each associated audio cue in-line with its respective portion of the voice mail message.

82. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 57, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to create a bookmarked message from the voice mail message and the bookmarks.

83. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 57, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, before playing the voice mail message, the degrees of importance in the voice mail message.

84. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 57, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, after playing the voice mail message, the degrees of importance in the voice mail message.

85. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 57, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, before playing the voice mail message, a number of the respective segments and the degrees of importance.

86. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 57, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, after playing the voice mail message, a number of the respective segments and the degrees of importance.

87. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, before playing the voice mail message, the special types of information in the voice mail message.

88. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, further comprising computer-readable program code configured to announce, after playing the voice mail message, the special types of information in the voice mail message.

89-91. (Canceled)